

REMARKS

The Final Office Action of November 24, 2008 has been carefully considered by Applicants. Claims 1-9 and 11-22 are presently pending. Claims 1-21 have been rejected. Claims 1-6, 13, 19, and 20 are amended. Claim 10 is canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claim 22 is newly added. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alcorn (U.S. Patent No. 6,149,522).

Applicant believes the rejection is deficient for the following reasons. Claims as amended describe limitations, such as recited in claim 1, “configuring a central processing unit to execute executable programming instructions to generate a wager-based game on the gaming machine; storing the executable programming instructions in a memory device for generating the wager-based game; connecting a volatile programmable electronic device comprising a plurality of logic elements programmable to form logic gates in a communication path between the central processing unit and the memory device; monitoring a communication between the central processing unit and at least one of an input device and an output device by using the volatile programmable electronic device; storing instructions for configuring the volatile programmable electronic device to enable communications between the central processing unit and the memory device, wherein said storing instructions comprises storing the instructions within a read only configuration file included within a configurator” and “facilitating communication between said memory device and said central processing unit upon determining that said configuration file has been successfully compared to said custodial file”. Applicants believe the citations providing by the Examiner don’t teach or suggest a microprocessor based machine, such as a gaming machine, in the manner as described in the pending claims.

As described in the claims, a volatile programmable electronic device, such as a field programmable gate array, is disposed in a communication path between a CPU and a memory device storing the executable programming instructions for generating the wager-based game (see FIG. 3 of the pending application). The volatile programmable electronic device comprises a plurality of logic elements to form logic gates. The volatile programmable electronic device may be programmed to enable communications between the CPU and the

memory device storing executable programming instructions for generating the wager-based game. Further, the operating contents said volatile programmable electronic may be held as substantially empty upon a shut down phase of said gaming machine to disable communication between the central processing unit and the memory device. In addition, the volatile programmable electronic device is configured to monitor a communication between the central processing unit and at least one of an input device and an output device. Applicants believe that the prior art citations provided by the Examiner don't teach or suggest a gaming machine configured with a volatile programmable memory device that is used in this manner. Therefore, for at least these reasons, the Applicants believe the rejection is overcome thereby.

New Claim

Claim 22 is depends on independent claim 13, which is patentable for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, claim 22 is also patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, including any extension fees, which may be required or credit any overpayment directly to the account of the undersigned, No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P096/P-824).

Respectfully submitted,

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